GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:445
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
NEW DRUG POLICY
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers propose to reduce the span ofprice control based on data uptoMarch 1999, has been objected to by the Health Ministry ;

(b) if so, the main points raised by the Health Ministry ;

(c) Whether the proposed new pharmaceutical policy has been blocked due to the Health Ministry`s objections ;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard ;

(e) whether he has called a meeting of pharmaceutical Industry participants to accelerate the new drug policy ;

(f) if so, the details thereof ;

(g) whether the Indian drug manufacturers association has made a representation indicating the various problems that the pharma industry is facing ;

(h) if so, the details thereof ; and

(i) the time by which the new drug policy is likely to be finalized ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (i) : The Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech on the28th Feb, 2001 stated, inter alia, that it had been decided that the span of price control would be reduced substantially. There is no tussle between the Ministries of Chemicals & Fertilizers and the Health and Family Welfare on the issue of reducing price control on drugs.

With a view to identifying the policy initiatives that would enable the full potential to be realized, an inter-active meeting with concerned Ministries / Departments and representatives of Chemical, Petrochemicaland Pharmaceutical industries was held on the 5th November, 2001. This was also attended by the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association.Changes in the Drug Policy willtake into consideration all relevant factors.